



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **APRIL 4, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Commissioner Carl E. Moore joined the meeting at 10:06 AM.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Ramon Castillo, Vice President of Student Services, LA Trade-Technical College
Martin Flores, LA Life, Camp Gonzales
Daniel Laughlin, Youth Opportunity Movement
Michael J. Varela, Director, Dorothy F. Kirby Center
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services
Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

Commissioner Frank Bacio joined the meeting at 10:10 AM.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 28, 2007 MINUTES OF MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the minutes of March 28th, 2007 were approved with the following correction.

Page 2, 8th paragraph, add the following: *at three (3) locations; they will be picking them up next week.....*

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaño introduced invited guests Ramon Castillo, Vice President of Student Services, LA Trade-Technical College, Martin Flores, LA Life, Camp Gonzales, and Daniel Laughlin, Youth Opportunity Movement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,228.50.

INVITED GUEST MR. RAMON CASTILLO, VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES AT LA TRADE TECH TO SPEAK ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Mr. Ramon Castillo began by distributing an overview packet of the Scholarship Programs at LA Trade Technical College and then reported the following:

- The program currently has 13,000 students enrolled, and the school attracts (10) high schools from the surrounding areas.
- Training courses are offered in many fields including Culinary Arts, Automotive, and Construction trades for men, Fashion Design and Cosmetology courses for women.
- The student demographics are 53.3% Hispanic, 30% African-American, 10% Asian-American and 6% Caucasian.
- 80% of the students qualify for financial aid.
- The majority of students receive fee waivers and book grants.
- Enrollment is low and only a few recruitment programs are being conducted.
- The college has been approved for \$265,000 in bonds for construction of new buildings over the next (3) years; students will be hired to complete some of the construction.
- No Scholarship is too small; scholarships can be restricted to the Department of Probation or the Department of Children and Family Services.
- The Sybil Brand Commission would be able to meet the students being selected to receive the Scholarships.
- Posters and brochures advertising the college will be sent to the Commission for distribution to Group Homes.

Mr. Martin Flores from Camp Gonzales gave the following report:

- Camp Gonzales has 16-17 year olds taking college courses from LA Trade Technical College and soon classes will be extended to Camp Miller and Camp Kilpatrick.
- By offering college courses to incarcerated youths, this gives the youth a greater chance of not being re-incarcerated in the future.
- A proposed dorm concept is in development to prevent negative living situations for students and emancipated youths.

Mr. Daniel Laughlin, from Youth Opportunity Movement gave the following report:

- The Probation Department has offered a second grant to LA Trade Technical College.
- More vocational classes are being considered; i.e., Administrative, Financial, and Psychology.
- Counselors from the school become guides for the youths in camps; many youths don't know they can get into college, this provides them with the opportunity they need.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Sybil Brand Commission is requesting an email be sent to Ms. Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, Department of Children and Family Services asking her to respond to issues discussed at the March 28, 2007 meeting regarding the Ha're Johns Paradise Group Home.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION WEBPAGE

The Sybil Brand Commission Webpage was distributed to the Commission for final approval. On motion of Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren, and unanimously carried, the Sybil Brand Commission webpage was approved.

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services, introduced Mr. Andrew Sevrin, new staff to Commission Services. Mr. Sevrin recently joined Commission Services and will provide assistance to the Sybil Brand Commission. Mr. Sevrin stated that he is glad to be working with the Commission and previously worked at DCFS for ten years.
- Easter candy bags (150) were picked up by the Boys Republic Group Home on Tuesday, April 3, 2007.

- Registration forms were distributed to the LOG (Learning Organizational Group) on Gang Awareness and Intervention Conference scheduled for April 29, 2007 from 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. The Commissioners were asked to review and return the forms today if they were interested in attending the conference. Ms. Davis will fax the registration forms for anyone interested in attending.
- The Board Letter for the Sunset Review will be on the Audit Committee's Agenda for April 19, 2007.

FACILITY REPORTS

GLASS Arlington Group Home – 48, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

This facility was visited on March 29, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition. The building is well managed.

GLASS Benton Group Home- 48, #2 - Commissioners Hall and Moore

This facility was visited on March 29, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition. The Commission found the staff to be highly dedicated and helpful to the children; the rooms were found to be neat and clean; plentiful supplies of food. The Commissioners felt this home should be recommended to receive an award for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the children.

GLASS St. Andrews Group Home - 48, #3- Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

This facility was visited on April 2, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** High AWOL rate; youths have been known to check themselves in and out on their first day.

GLASS Steven Gaban Youth Home - #47, 5 - Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

This facility was visited on April 3, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Teens Happy Home – 103, #2 - Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

This facility was visited on April 3, 2007, and found to be in extremely poor condition.

Areas of Concern: License and bulletins not posted; smoke detector in bedroom not working; children not instructed on evacuation plan on barred windows; evacuation diagram difficult to read in the event of a fire; obscene graffiti all over the walls in the back yard; van not operating and shows no signs of operation for a few months; bathroom in poor shape; private closet unable to be opened because no key available; tons of garbage piled up behind one of the clothes dressers.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Varela from Probation reported a disturbance at Camp Jarvis in Lancaster resulting in police containment; the disturbance was the result of a fight between two males; two on-site staff were injured.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

- Discussion and Approval of Sybil Brand Commission Quarterly Report
- Discussion and Approval of Press Release Draft for Sybil Brand Website
- Discussion and Approval of Scholarships: LA Trade Technical College

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña moved for adjourning the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division